

# Documents on Diplomacy: Lessons

## *Free as a Butterfly: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

Standard:        I. Culture  
                     II. Time, Continuity, and Change  
                     III. People, Places, and Environments  
                     IV. Individual Development and Identity  
                     V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions  
                     VI. Power, Authority, and Governance  
                     VII. Production, Distribution, and Consumption  
                     VIII. Science, Technology, and Society  
                     IX. Global Connections  
                     X. Civic Ideals and Practices

Grade Level:        9–12

Objectives:        The student will:  
                         ● Analyze the Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
                         ● Relate to one of the articles of the Declaration of Human Rights  
                         ● Consider the rights and privileges granted to all humans

Time:                1–2 class periods

Materials:        Documents: **1948** *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

Resources: *Universal Declaration of Human Rights animation*  
(Amnesty International: 20 minutes) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epVZrYbDVis>

Exercises: *Butterfly template* (copy master on **yellow** sheets)  
Numbers 1–30 (not provided) cut individually

Materials: String (cut into different lengths for a mobile)  
Hole punch (one hole in each butterfly)  
Markers  
Coat hanger (or similar) to serve as a mobile

Procedures:

### *Pre-Lesson*

1. Write the numbers 1–30 on a sheet of paper and cut them out individually.
2. Copy the resource, *Butterfly Template* on **yellow** paper; one for each student. The teacher should punch one hole in each butterfly. Alternatively, the students may do so during *Activity 2*, depending on time.
3. Cut string into several different lengths, one for each student.

*Activity 1*

- 1.** Place a yellow butterfly on each desk before students arrive.
- 2.** Give each student a number (1–30) as they enter the classroom (Adjust distribution of numbers according to size of class.)
- 3.** Distribute copies of the document, *The Declaration of Human Rights*.
- 4.** Have students match their individual numbers with the corresponding Article in the Declaration.
- 5.** Prepare to show the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights Animation* on YouTube.
- 6.** Provide these instructions to students:
  - a.** Follow the articles in the Declaration as each is animated on screen.
  - b.** Pay close attention to how their article (based on numbers) is depicted. Be prepared to refer to this animation during discussion later.
  - c.** Place a mark by the articles that they feel are BEST depicted. Which animations are the BEST?
- 7.** Play the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights Animation*.
- 8.** Discuss after the viewing:
  - a.** Which animations were most impressive?
  - b.** How did they BEST depict the articles of the Declaration?
  - c.** How effectively did the creators illustrate your Article?
  - d.** Evaluate the entire presentation in its depiction of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

*Activity 2*

- 1.** Have students place their butterflies in the center of their desks. Explain that butterflies represent freedom and the rights to which all are entitled.
- 2.** Keep the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on desks as well.
- 3.** Have each student condense his/her Article to a short phrase or series of words.
- 4.** Distribute markers.
- 5.** Students should write their phrases and article numbers on their butterflies.
- 6.** Give each student a piece of string. Allow time for students to tie the strings to the butterflies.

- 7.** Use a coat hanger (or whatever works) to attach all strings. This mobile will be a visible sign of the freedoms to which all humans are entitled.
- 8.** Hang the mobile in classroom for future reference.

Extension Activities:

- 1.** Provide historical background about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008.

[www.universalrights.net/main/creation.htm](http://www.universalrights.net/main/creation.htm)

- 2.** Eleanor Roosevelt chaired the Commission which created the Declaration. Have students watch this short speech delivered by Mrs. Roosevelt on Human Rights Day.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IM10f8Lx\\_w4&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IM10f8Lx_w4&feature=related)